World Bank and ADB assistance for Golden Quadrilateral Rail Route

4778. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to seek assistance from multilateral lending agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Japanese Bank for expansion of capacities on the golden quadrilateral route;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds to be raised;

(c) what are the project drawn up under the Golden Quadrilateral expansion and how soon these are to be launched; and

(d) whether the new project was, mentioned in the rail budget this year and any provisions were made on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) In order to expedite works on High Density Routes, a proposal for strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and the Diagonals connecting the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai is being developed by the Railways for multilateral funding.

A consolidated plan or identifying all the inputs wherever required, *e.g.*, doubling/laying additional lines, electrification, improvement in signalling, track structure, rolling stock etc., including the funds required is being prepared.

It was mentioned in the Budget speech 2002-03 that a major focus for the Railways will be the augmentation of capacity of the saturated Golden Quadrilateral and its Diagonals. Funds have already been provided in 2002-03 Budget for the sanctioned projects for strengthening the Golden Quadrilateral and the diagonals. For other works funds will be provided after obtaining the necessary sanctions.